



# Customer Focus on Loss Control

*Innovative Safety and Health Solutions<sup>SM</sup>*

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## Ozone Generators and Indoor Air Quality

In April 1998, EPA released a fact sheet on ozone generators.

Ozone generators are marketed with the rationale that they alleviate indoor air quality problems, primarily by oxidizing air pollutants.

EPA's fact sheet implies, but does not say outright, that most ozone generators do little to improve indoor air quality and may actually pose a health hazard.

EPA stopped short of saying that ozone generators do not work and that the health risks associated with their use have been scientifically documented.

Instead, information at EPA's web page said, "The public is advised to use proven methods of controlling indoor air pollution.

These methods include eliminating or controlling pollutant sources, increasing outdoor air ventilation and using proven methods of air cleaning." (as of July, 1998)

At a meeting held April 30, 1998 at EPA in Washington, DC, an EPA official was quoted as saying, "EPA didn't want to take the step of directly recommending to consumers that they shouldn't buy or use ozone generators, because we think that the scientific evidence will lead consumers to the correct conclusion.

We're comfortable with our stand, and we'll let the public decide for themselves."

Considering these statements and the health risks associated with low level ozone exposure, the Hartford's Loss Control Department recommends against the use of ozone generators as a measure to control indoor air pollution.

